

POOR LAW (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 8 February 1855;—for,

A RETURN "of the NAMES of the POOR LAW BOARD in *Ireland*, as also of the NAMES of the POOR LAW INSPECTORS in *Ireland*, with the Dates of their Appointments; as also the NAMES of the several POOR LAW INSPECTORS Removed within the last Twelve Months, or about to be Removed, in *Ireland*, with the Dates of their respective Appointments; together with a COPY of the CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of such Removals, or intended Removals."

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, }
15 February 1855.

W. STANLEY,
Secretary.

NAMES of the POOR LAW BOARD in *Ireland*.

Alfred Power, Chief Commissioner.

Right Honourable Sir John Young, Bart., M. P., Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas A. Larcom, Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

John M'Donnell, M. D., Medical Commissioner.

Edward Senior, Commissioner.

NAMES of the POOR LAW INSPECTORS in *Ireland*, and Date of their Appointments.

NAMES OF THE POOR LAW INSPECTORS IN IRELAND.	DATE OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS.	
C. G. Otway - -	22 April 1839	
Joseph Burke - -	22 - -	
D. Phelan - -	8 Mar. 1847	Previously Assistant Poor Law Commissioner from October 1836 to December 1843. Governor of the House of Industry, Dublin, from February 1844 to March 1847.
Charles C. Crawford -	8 Mar. 1847	
Richard Bourke -	21 July -	
P. M. Barron - -	23 - -	
George Huband -	21 Aug. -	
R. M. Lynch - -	25 Sept. 1848	Previously temporary inspector from Oct. 1847.
Lieut.-col. Clarke -	13 Sept. 1849	Previously temporary inspector from Oct. 1847.
W. J. Hamilton -	1 Nov. 1859	Previously temporary inspector from Oct. 1847.
Samuel Horsley -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from Oct. 1847.
R. T. Hamilton -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from Oct. 1847.
H. Robinson - -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from Feb. 1848.
W. P. O'Brien - -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from Jan. 1849.
W. H. Lucas - -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from Apr. 1849.
J. Hall - -	1 - -	Previously temporary inspector from July 1849.

MEDICAL INSPECTORS.

NAME.						DATE OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS.
J. E. Purcell, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	17 Dec. 1851.
W. J. Geary, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	17 - -
John Hill, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	17 - -
A. Knox, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	17 - -
T. Dillon, M. D.	-	-	-	-	-	17 - -

NAMES of the several POOR LAW INSPECTORS Removed within the last Twelve Months.

— Nil. —

NAMES of POOR LAW INSPECTORS about to be Removed, and Dates of their Appointments.

Names of the several Poor Law Inspectors about to be Removed.						Dates of their Appointments.
Joseph Burke	-	-	-	-	-	22 April - 1839.
D. Phelan	-	-	-	-	-	8 March - 1847.
P. M. Barton	-	-	-	-	-	23 July - 1847.
George Huband	-	-	-	-	-	21 August - 1847.
R. M. Lynch	-	-	-	-	-	26 September 1848.

MEDICAL INSPECTOR.

Dr. Dillon - - - - - 17 December 1851.

COPY of the CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of such Removals or intended Removals.

(No. 488, M/54.)

No. 1.—LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
2 December 1854.

Sir,

THE Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, having been called on to consider in what way a further material reduction can be effected in the annual expenses of the office, have the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant the following recommendations, as calculated in their opinion to effect the required reduction with the least injury to the efficiency of the department.

The peculiar functions which belong to the Poor Law Commission in Ireland, and which have hitherto appeared to render necessary an establishment larger and more expensive in proportion to the local poor law expenditure than those establishments by which the administration of poor laws in England and Scotland is superintended, are set forth in a document submitted to the Commissioners appointed by the Lords of the Treasury to inquire into establishment of

of the Irish Poor Law Commission in January 1854, a copy of which document is herewith submitted for his Excellency's information.

It is not necessary here to refer to any other of the peculiar functions enumerated in that paper than those which the Commissioners now propose to recommend for removal or modification by the Legislature.

In the first place, the Commissioners recommend that the power of dissolving Boards of Guardians, and appointing paid officers to administer the poor law in Ireland in their stead, should be abolished at once.

The Commissioners recommend this course, because they think it is not probable that difficulties like those which led to the exercise of this power during the famine will again arise. Should, however, any serious embarrassments of a like character again present themselves, it is confidently believed that after the experience of the past, the boards of guardians, with the aid of the Commissioners and their inspectors, will be enabled to contend with such difficulties successfully, and that the power in question may therefore be safely repealed at this time.

By the 9th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1849, 12 & 13 Vict. c. 104, the office of assistant guardian was created with the view of associating with the board of guardians of any union, which might desire such assistance, an executive officer appointed by the Commissioners, and directly amenable to their authority. It was thought that by this course the necessity for dissolving boards of guardians in future might be avoided. This provision has hitherto been almost inoperative, through the absence of any provision making the salary of such an officer a legal charge on the poor-rate. A very considerable staff of inspectors, however, existed at that time, who in some instances which occurred shortly after the passing of the Act of 1849, were appointed and acted as assistant guardians, and since the date of that Act no board of guardians has been dissolved. In abolishing the power of dissolution, and in reducing at the same time, as hereafter proposed, the number of inspectors, it seems to deserve consideration whether the office of assistant guardian should not be rendered available in cases of difficulty and emergency, by making the salary a legal charge on the poor-rates; and this course the Commissioners now recommend for adoption.

The Commissioners, in the next place, recommend that the power which they now possess of altering electoral divisions in Ireland should be repealed.

Some of the considerations which have led the Commissioners to decline altering the boundary arrangements made in 1848 and 1850, on the recommendation of the late Boundary Commissioners, are stated in the 31st paragraph of their Fifth Annual Report, and to the present time the Commissioners have persevered in refusing to alter electoral divisions in any instance except where they found the present boundaries to have been adopted on erroneous information. The lapse of a few years has much diminished the pressure of the applications for changes in the boundaries of electoral divisions; but the Commissioners feel that, however objectionable it may be to alter, from time to time, the area of taxation, they cannot for an indefinite period decline to enter into the merits of an application for further change, so long as they retain the power of altering electoral divisions. They accordingly, on the 31st October last, adopted the following Minute in modification of the views expressed in the paragraph of the Fifth Annual Report above referred to.

COPY OF MINUTE of Poor Law Commissioners, dated 31 October 1854.

The draft index of the return made to the House of Commons, in pursuance of an Order of the House, dated 6th August 1853, showing the applications which have been made since the re-arrangement of unions and electoral divisions, for further alteration of the boundaries of electoral divisions in Ireland.

The above document having been considered, and reference made to the 31st paragraph of the Fifth Annual Report, and to the 18th section of the Act 1 & 2 Vict. cap. 56, which empowers the Commissioners to alter electoral divisions from time to time, it was determined to adopt the following minute, as expressing the present views of the Commissioners on the subject.

It appears desirable to consider the recent arrangement of the poor-law divisions in Ireland to be a permanent arrangement, as far as practicable, and, as it may perhaps be thought expedient, at no distant time, to repeal the power of altering electoral divisions, at present possessed by the Poor Law Commissioners, it is now determined, with a view to that contingency, to consider every appli-

cation for a change of boundaries on its own merits, not for the purpose of re-constructing electoral divisions on any new principle, or for the purpose of increasing or diminishing the extent of electoral divisions generally, but for the purpose of removing all objections to any part of the existing arrangement which may appear to be reasonable and well-grounded, and so preparing the way for a final abolition of the powers of alteration.

It is not proposed to abolish the power in question immediately, but to fix a not distant date, after which the power of alteration shall expire.

Another important change in the law which the Commissioners recommend is to transfer the ownership of the workhouse buildings and premises from the Commissioners, in whom they are now vested, to the respective boards of guardians.

This measure, while it will render unnecessary the further continuance of the architect's department, and reduce materially the law expenses now charged on the contingencies of the office, will not, it is apprehended, diminish the influence which the Commissioners are at present able to exert over boards of guardians (who are, it will be observed, the actual possessors of the property), so as to secure continued attention to the maintenance of the buildings in a proper state of repair.

Practically, it depends at present on the boards of guardians whether any alteration of, or additions to, the buildings which the Commissioners may think desirable should be carried into execution; and in transferring to the guardians the responsibilities of ownership, the Commissioners will retain the same power as at present of influencing the guardians in the discharge of their duty in regard to the workhouse, and the land occupied together with the workhouse.

Concurrently with the adoption of these measures the Commissioners feel prepared to recommend a considerable reduction of the machinery of the department, involving a very material decrease of annual expense in the estimate. The annual estimate in 1848-49, was 57,297 £; in 1849-50, 52,277 £; in 1850-51, 45,960 £; in 1851-52, 49,527 £; in 1852-53, 50,096 £; in 1853-54, 45,710 £; and in 1854-55, 40,794 £. The further reduction which the Commissioners are now proposing amounts, by direct abolition of office alone, to 11,308 £.

The Commission as at present constituted consists, in addition to the Chief and Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, of three Commissioners and a Secretary. This arrangement was made so recently as the year 1831, when the Medical Charities Act was passed. Previously, that is to say, since August 1847, it consisted of a Chief Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, and a Secretary. Before the commencement of the famine the immediate administration of the Irish Poor Law, which at that time was vested in the English Poor Law Board, was conducted by one Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner, the secretarial duties being performed by a chief clerk.

The duty under the Medical Charities Act and the functions of the Board of Health do not admit of the constitution of the Commission being restored precisely to what it was before the Act of 1847; but it is proposed to revert to the same arrangement as then existed with regard to the secretarial duties, and to abolish the two offices of secretary and assistant secretary.

It is further proposed to reduce the number of poor-law inspectors from 16 to 11, the number of medical inspectors from five to four, the number of auditors from six to five, and to abolish altogether the architect's department.

The workhouse buildings in all the recently formed unions are now complete, with the exception of three, which are in an advanced state of progress; and it is thought that an arrangement can readily be made with Mr. Wilkinson for the despatch of all business connected with these or other buildings which may be still outstanding in the architect's department on the 31st March next, the date when it is proposed that his services as the architect of the Commission shall cease. Thenceforth, on any occasion which may arise in any Irish union for the services of an architect, the guardians, who will be the owners, as well as the occupiers of the workhouse premises, according to the change of the law proposed, will employ, as is the case at present in England, the services of any architect whom they may select for the occasion. The Commissioners propose, however, to retain the services of the architect's first assistant, Mr. Barney, to enable them to exercise with effect the control properly belonging to them over the proceedings of boards of guardians in relation to the workhouse buildings, and also for the

the purpose of rendering such assistance to the guardians in regard to plans and specifications as may still be expected from the Commissioners, notwithstanding the proposed change in the law. Mr. Barney at present ranks as a first-class clerk, and it is the intention of the Commissioners to make a vacancy for him in that class, by consolidating the two offices of cashier and registrar, which they find may be done without disadvantage to the service.

The financial result of the reductions above proposed is as follows :

Secretary - - - - -	£.
Assistant secretary - - - - -	1,000
Five inspectors (poor law), including travelling expenses - - - - -	500
One medical inspector, including travelling expenses - - - - -	6,000
One auditor - - - - -	800
Architect's department - - - - -	660
	1,600
£.	10,460

To the above sum must be added 858 *l.*, on account of 11 extra clerks provided for in the estimate for the current year, but now reduced, making together a total decrease by means of abolition of office of 11,308 *l.* on the estimate for the year 1854-55.

It remains, however, to be stated that the difference which would arise on these reductions between the current year's estimate and the estimate for the next year is modified by the improved scale of salaries recommended by Messrs. Bromley and Stephenson in their report to the Lords of the Treasury of 4th March last, in which recommendations, slightly modified, the Commissioners have expressed their concurrence. Those recommendations are now under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, having been submitted for their approval in the Commissioners' letter of the 3d November last; and if they are adopted, the estimate for the ensuing year will be 32,858 *l.*, showing in comparison with the estimate for the previous year, viz., 40,794 *l.* 6*s.*, a reduction to the extent of 8,136 *l.* 6*s.*

The above sum of 32,858 *l.* includes 2,760 *l.* for the services of the five remaining auditors of union accounts. These officers, whose salaries were charged originally, like those of the poor-law auditors in England, on the poor-rates, are now included in the annual estimate of the expenses of the Irish Poor Law Commission; but it is submitted that the same course may properly be pursued with regard to these salaries, as with the salaries of the English auditors, both being essentially union officers, and that they should be excluded from the estimate of the office expenses, as is the case in the English estimate. This operation would reduce the estimate to somewhat less than 30,000 *l.*

It is calculated that the proportion of the office expenses due to the administration of the Medical Charities Act, and the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts, is about 7,000 *l.*; and this deduction will leave not quite 23,000 *l.* as the proposed annual cost of the Poor Law Department of the Irish Poor Law Commission.

Now, the estimate for the year 1846-47, the year before the commencement of the Irish famine, was 18,100 *l.*; making allowance, therefore, for the increase arising by progress of time through the annual increments of the salaries, and for an improved scale sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury in 1849 and 1861, the estimate now under consideration may be said not to exceed very materially the amount voted for the Irish Poor Law Department before the commencement of the famine.

Occasion for further reduction may probably arise in subsequent years; but at present the Commissioners are not prepared to recommend, concurrently with the proposed changes in the law, a larger reduction of their office expenses than that above detailed.

I have, &c.

(signed) W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Right Honourable
Sir John Young, Bart., &c. &c. &c., M. P.,
Dublin Castle.

Enclosure in No. 1.

POOR LAW COMMISSION, IRELAND.

In an examination of the arrangements of the Irish Poor Law Office, it will be seen that the Central Board stands in a very close relation to the local machinery, and that its responsibility extends to very minute details of union management.

This is a matter not depending so much on the will or discretion of the Commissioners as on the peculiar provisions of the Irish Poor Law Acts, under which the Commissioners exercise functions which are either wholly unknown to the English poor law, or which, in England, devolve upon boards of guardians or parish officers.

For example, in England the area of taxation for poor-rate is single, and unchangeable, the parish; in Ireland, the electoral division consists of a number of townlands, and is liable to change at the will of the Commissioners. On any such change taking place, each townland contained in an electoral division, which is altered in the smallest degree, acquires a separate interest of its own, and has its own share of the liabilities and assets of the electoral division at the time of change, and these become a separate area of taxation, until both are disposed of. For this purpose special rates are made on the townlands by way of addition to or deduction from its share of the ordinary rate on the electoral division to which it now belongs, and each townland's old partnership account has to be brought to its debit or credit in the new partnership accounts. These operations are all specifically directed as to each townland by orders under seal of the Commission, in pursuance of 12 & 13 Vict. c. 104, s. 2.

An extensive change of boundaries made by desire of the Government in 1849-50, affected in the manner above described about 50,000 townlands. Sealed orders have since been issued, based upon about 325,000 calculations, all conducted by the clerks in this office, setting forth the balance in favour of or against these townlands. The issue of these orders is just completed, and we are now in the midst of the special rates and other operations necessary to conduct the accounts to a close. In doing this it is sometimes found that the calculations have been made on wrong data obtained from the union valuations, and then new calculations must be made and new orders issued. Since 1850 no change has been made in the boundaries of electoral divisions, the Commissioners being desirous to consider, if they can, that the recent change was a final arrangement; but a great number of applications have been made for further changes; and it is impossible to say that further changes will not be made. The papers connected with these applications have been moved for in the House of Commons, with the view of impressing upon Government the necessity for some further revision of the boundaries.

Another peculiarity in the Irish Poor Law is the circumstance that the building and hiring of workhouses is conducted directly by the Commissioners, and that all the landed property (value about 1,500,000 £) is vested in them, and not in the boards of guardians, as is the case with the workhouses in England.

Although the business attending the acquisition of this property is now nearly at a close, a good deal arises occasionally out of the mere ownership. Lines of railway not unfrequently interfere with the sites of workhouses or the land attached to them; in a few instances large portions of the building have been consumed by fire, and have been rebuilt; more frequently large additions are made to the original building or to the land occupied with it. In all such cases the Commissioners conduct the negotiations and are the parties to the contract, and are sometimes in consequence of this position involved in troublesome and expensive suits at law. The surrender of the auxiliary workhouses, taken during the famine, is still going on, and is a fruitful source of trouble in this way, on account of alleged or actual dilapidations. As proprietors of the workhouse buildings, the Commissioners have a great weight of responsibility about the ordinary repairs and the drainage and sewerage of the premises, all of which would be liable to be neglected were it not for the occasional visitation of the architect and his assistants.

Other peculiar functions of the Irish Poor-law Commissioners, which are exercised by them, in addition to most of the functions of the English Poor Law Board, may be enumerated as follows:—

1. The appointment of chaplains, and the regulation of religious service in workhouses, under the 48th and 49th sections of the original Act. The administration of these two sections forms one of the most difficult and delicate portions of the business of the Commission; for under them, and under these articles in the workhouse rules which relate to the religion of the inmates, appeals are constantly made by the boards of guardians for an expression of opinion by the Commissioners upon points which excite much excitement and very angry feelings between guardians and ratepayers of different religious creeds. As a sample of the questions arising under the 49th section, the Commissioners are often called upon in this manner to determine, under a given state of facts, whether an orphan or deserted child of tender age shall be brought up as a Protestant or as a Roman-catholic.

2. The returning officer for the election of guardians in Ireland is appointed directly by the Commissioners, and the return of the guardians elected is made by him to the Commissioners, who have power, on appeal, to direct a scrutiny, and to set aside the return. Although the clerks of unions are usually entrusted with this duty, it is sometimes found necessary to send from the office an experienced clerk to conduct the election. In all cases the notices of election are drawn up and issued from the department, and for some considerable

siderable time, both before and after the general annual election in March, a great amount of business arises under this head; all questions affecting the right of a guardian to act being expressly subject to adjudication by the Commissioners: sections 6 & 7 Vict. c. 22, s. 23.

3. There are several acts which cannot be done by the guardians of unions in Ireland without an express consent previously obtained from the Commissioners; as, for example, the expenditure of money in emigration, proceeding in superior courts for poor-rates, appealing to quarter sessions on a disputed question of chargeability of a pauper. The authority of the Commissioners to give or withhold consent in the latter case operates practically to make them an intermediate court of appeal in such cases; and as the law of chargeability in Ireland has already, by successive changes, become very complicated, there is no doubt that a good deal of expense in litigation is saved by the exercise of this function of the Commissioners.

4. There is one particular not yet adverted to, in which the executive authority and responsibility of the Irish Poor Law Commission differs most widely from that of the Poor Law Board in England; namely, the power the former have to dissolve boards of guardians, and to appoint paid officers in their stead to administer the affairs of the union. This power was exercised by the Commissioners during the famine in 39 cases; and although no such case has occurred recently, it is clear that the existence of the power entails a responsibility on the Commissioners in regard to every default which may be committed by a board of guardians in the administration of the poor law.

That the Commissioners may duly discharge themselves of this responsibility, a very close supervision of the affairs of each union is necessary; not so much for the purpose of enabling the Commissioners to exercise the power of dissolution judiciously, as for the purpose of anticipating and preventing any occasion for its exercise, than which nothing can be more revolting to popular feeling and embarrassing to the Government in Ireland.

Thus it becomes necessary to pass in review regularly and promptly all the acts and proceedings of every union board, as recorded on the minutes of their weekly meetings, and to warn the guardians not only of every departure from the objects of the poor law, but even of every unpolicy in its administration. Again, in order to provide against the failure of the law from want of funds, duly levied on each electoral division (and townland), in proportion to its requirements, it is necessary to examine the estimates for the rates, and to see that the different poundages are sufficient, and imposed legally; a matter requiring much vigilance in regard to the special poundages on townlands.

Hence, also, it is necessary to have weekly returns of the progress of the collection of poor-rates, and weekly returns of the number and classes of inmates, rate of mortality, &c., and quarterly reports of inspection of the workhouses by the inspectors. For the same reason, the number of the inspectors is greater here than in England; and as Irish pauperism is relieved almost wholly in the workhouses, a regular periodical inspection of these establishments is one of the more important functions of the Commission.

Another material point is the frequent attendance on Boards of Guardians. It was to obviate the unpopular act of dissolving Boards of Guardians that a provision was introduced into the Act 12 & 13 Vict. c. 104, s. 9, for the appointment of assistant guardians. The attempt to put this in operation failed through the absence of any provision for the salary of such an officer; but the same object is attained in some measure by having some inspectors with smaller districts, consisting of unions most burthened with pauperism, and therefore requiring a more constant attention and more frequent visitation.

It may be well to conclude this memorandum by a short description of the way in which the executive duties of the Commission are administered.

In pursuance of the course prescribed by the statute, all acts done under the seal of the Commission are signed either by two Commissioners or by the Chief Commissioner; and in the latter case his signature is accompanied by the counter signature of the secretary.

In the absence of the Chief Commissioner, his powers and functions devolve on another Commissioner by delegation, Mr. Senior. A somewhat analogous course is pursued in the directions given for the conduct of the correspondence, and the general management of the department; all which directions are initiated by one or more of the Commissioners, and not even the minutest direction takes effect without such authority.

The initials of the secretary and assistant secretary have a suggestive character only; these of the Commissioners are alone executive. Some of the correspondence is brought by the clerks in charge of it directly to the Chief Commissioner; other portions go, in the first instance, either to another Commissioner or to the secretary or assistant secretary; but all directions whatever receive finally the initials of the Chief Commissioner, or in his absence, of the Commissioner exercising his functions. By this system, a due division of labour is made compatible with a responsibility in one person for every proceeding in the department; and this tends very materially, as may be supposed, to preserve uniformity of action in conducting the business of the Commission.

Twice a week the other Commissioners meet the chief secretary and under secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, who are ex-officio Commissioners, and consult with them on any papers which may possibly excite public attention or lead to questions in Parliament, or about which they may feel unable to agree on a satisfactory conclusion, or which for any other reason they wish to bring under the notice of the Government. These papers are always specially referred to on the minutes, and the course resolved upon is afterwards carried out by directions of the acting Commissioners, as in the case of other business.

The secretary of the Commission, in addition to the countersigning of orders signed by the Chief Commissioner, and the signing of letters issuing from the office, has immediate charge of the general management of the office, under the direction of the Commissioners, of the office accounts, distribution of the business, applications for employment, attendance of the clerks, and the actual amount of daily business done by each, &c. &c.

A portion also of the ordinary correspondence of the unions is taken to him in the first instance by the clerks in charge of it (as already described), in order to receive his suggestions as to the disposal of it, before it is submitted to the Commissioners.

The above account of the way in which the higher executive duties of the Commission are conducted, is submitted as throwing some additional light upon the subordinate duties of the clerks, and may be useful in reference to the inquiry now making into the extent and nature of the business of the office, and to the details which have been set forth from each branch of the department.

In reference to the present number of the clerks and other officers in the service of the Commissioners, and the estimate sent forward for the year commencing April 1854, it may be remarked that although the labours of the Commission have been considerably lightened since 1849, when the pressure of the famine, the Rate-in-Aid, the Annuities Acts, and other necessary legislation entailed additional duties (the present decrease of business in regard to which has led to a reduction of annual expenditure on the poor-law branch of the department of more than \$9,000*l.*); on the other hand, the Medical Charities Act and the statute requiring the Commissioners to act as a Board of Health increases both the duties and the expense of the Commission, and that up to this period the tendency of legislation has rather been to extend than limit their sphere of action.

(No. 32, M/55.)

No. 2.—LETTER from the Commissioners to Messrs. *Burke, Phelan, Barron, Huband, and Lynch*; and also to Dr. *Dillon*, Medical Inspector.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
22 January 1855.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to inform you that the necessity of a large reduction in the amount of the annual estimate having been pressed on the attention of the Commissioners by the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, the Commissioners have determined to discontinue your services as an inspector from and after the 31st March next.

The Commissioners have given you this early notice of the future termination of your appointment, with the desire to prevent, as far as possible, any inconvenience which might be caused by the cessation of office without such previous timely intimation.

In the interval between the present time and the time of retirement above stated, the Commissioners do not wish you to engage in any official proceedings except such as may be necessary to complete any business already taken in hand, but your personal allowance will be continued during your residence in your district.

The question of a retiring allowance in the several cases of inspectors now retiring from the service of the Commission, and of the amount thereof, if such allowance be granted, rests on the decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in each case.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. Stanley*, Secretary.

To J. Burke, Esq.	} Poor Law Inspectors.
D. Phelan, Esq.	
P. M. Barron, Esq.	
G. Huband, Esq.	
R. M. Lynch, Esq.	
Dr. Dillon, Medical Inspector.	

(No. 61, M/55.)

No. 8.—LETTER from the Commissioners to Sir C. E. Trevelyan.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,

7 February 1856.

Sir,

ADVERTING to the letter addressed to you by direction of the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, on the 12th October last, in which the Commissioners stated that the necessity of a reduction in the annual expenses in the poor-law establishment in Ireland had been strongly urged on the attention of the Commissioners by the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, and that the question of the extent of reduction in the number of poor-law inspectors and medical inspectors, together with other possible reductions, was then under the consideration of the Commissioners, I am now directed by the Commissioners to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the Commissioners have, with the approval of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, determined to discontinue the services of the following inspectors from and after the 31st March next; viz. Mr. Joseph Burke, Mr. Phelan, Mr. Barron, Mr. Huband, and Mr. Lynch, poor-law inspectors; and Dr. Dillon, medical inspector.

The Commissioners have also determined to discontinue the services of Captain Owen, auditor, from the same date.

In announcing to these gentlemen the approaching termination of their appointments, the Commissioners have informed them that the question of a retiring allowance to the several officers now retiring from the service of the Commission, and of the amount thereof, if such allowance be granted, rests on the decision of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in each case.

The intention of the Commissioners to make further reductions in their office establishment has been communicated to the chief secretary of the Lord Lieutenant; but as these reductions are more directly and closely connected with a contemplated alteration of the provisions of the Irish poor law, no actual step can be taken by the Commissioners in regard to the individuals whose offices will be abolished or rendered unnecessary by the proposed change of the law until the intended measure has been submitted to Parliament.

To Sir C. E. Trevelyan, K.C.S.,
&c. &c. &c.

Treasury Chambers, London.

POOR LAW (IRELAND).

RETURN of the Names of the Poor Law Boards,
and of the Poor Law Inspectors, in Ireland,
with the Dates of their Appointments; and of the
Names of the several Poor Law Inspectors
Removed within the last Twelve Months, or
about to be Removed, in Ireland, with the Dates
of their Appointments; and Correspondence
on the subject of such Removals, or intended
Removals.

(*Mr. Bland.*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
on 22 February 1855.*
